Kevin Kamps, did you want to come up and conclude your statement?

1 MR. KAMPS: Thanks very much. Just to pick up where I was at. I did want to talk some more about the history of actual shipments of high-level waste, and again go back to Germany where there was a shipment of high-level waste sent from Germany to France for reprocessing. And upon its return to the border between France and Germany it was discovered to be 3,000 times the permissible level of radiation on the surface of the casks. So there was a contamination event.

And this information was kept from the public for a considerable period of time and created quite a scandal when it was finally released. And so that's another example of things going wrong with high-level waste transportation.

2 In this country, and again, the state of Nevada web site for people who would like to see it, there's a Department of Energy document -- I've never been able to find it on DOE's web site, but I found it on the state of Nevada's -- where there's 72 accidents documented from the 1940's of spent nuclear fuel transport accidents. It's claimed that there were no releases of radioactivity and that there were different severity levels associated with the accidents. But it's really not true to say that there have been no accidents, and I heard that said earlier today.

3 Of course, the transportation of low-level wastes, there are lots of accidents reported. And just recently in Ohio there was a very severe accident, a head-on collision between two vehicles. One was a low-level waste shipment. Both drivers were killed and there was a big fire, and I've yet to be able to give it the time to find out if there was contamination released.

But there was a comment made earlier that gasoline is being transported, paper towels being transported on our roads; and radioactivity, whether defined as low-level waste, and that's a pretty broad category that can include highly radioactive substances, or whether it's high-level waste, which is very serious stuff, I don't think that that's right to compare that to toilet paper.

4 I also wanted to make another comparison for people who may not be as familiar with these issues of what is contained in these transports that would pass through Utah. And these figures come from Dr. Marvin Resnikoff, and he's the director of Radioactive Waste Management Associates in New York City. He's been involved with the state of Utah's opposition to the Skull Valley Goshutes Private Fuel Storage. He's a nuclear physicist. And he has compared the amount of radioactivity in the casks, the amount of long-lived radioactivity, to the amount of radioactivity that was released in the Hiroshima atomic bomb. So this is a comparison of long-lived radioactivity.

In each one of the truck casks that would pass through Utah, and I'll pull out the numbers again, there is a projection of over 6,000 truck casks. In each one of these truck casks there is up to the radiological equivalent of 40 Hiroshima atomic bombs in each truck cask, and there's over 6,000 projected through Utah. In each train cask, which are much larger, there's 8,000 of those projected through Utah. There is up to 240 Hiroshima atomic bombs' worth of long-lived radioactivity in each of those casks.

5 And before coming out West, in Washington I did some comparison of the grand total number of projected shipments and found that Utah has over 90 percent of the nation's shipments targeted to come through here. Out of all the shipments of nuclear waste from all over the United States bound for Yucca Mountain, Nevada, over 90 percent would pass through Utah.

6... I wanted to say a little bit about the no-action alternative that's presented in the DEIS. And the assumption there is, DOE makes the assumption that the waste at the 70 plus sites around the country would be abandoned from institutional control, and I feel that this is unrealistic, it's absurd, and it's a scare tactic to

6 cont. make people who live near these facilities afraid of what might happen if Yucca Mountain weren't to open. And it's an extreme no-action alliterative.

7 I think another no-action alliterative that's been mentioned today, it's a different twist on the words "no action," I guess, would be to solve half of the high-level waste problem in this country by the order they phase out of nuclear power, because at this point there is around 40,000 metric tons of high-level waste in the United States. If the plants continue operating into the future, there will be over twice that amount still coming. So an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. We can solve half the problem by the orderly phase-out of nuclear energy, nuclear power in this country. And we have some handouts on the table entitled "Plutonium vs. Wind Power" as an example of some alternatives to nuclear power. So that's another no-action alliterative to consider.

8 Another comment I wanted to make was in regards to the Native American issue with the Skull Valley Goshute Reservation being targeted for a dump here in Utah. Even a speaker from Skull Valley said that it would be a temporary site, and I'm not so sure. I'd just like to put that out there too, that once the waste gets somewhere, there's no telling what's going to happen, because this has a lot more to do with politics and with money than it does science. So if waste were to be located there, who's to say what direction congress would take in the future?

So I would just give that as a warning to the people of Utah that calling it an interim storage facility, that may change. I'm from Michigan and there's an area of uranium mining just over the border in Canada, and it's Ojibwe country, and there was uranium mining there from the 40's until the 90's. And the contamination of that slough there is massive. There were 12 large uranium mines there. And one of the traditional Ojibwe that we spoke with said that it's not right to buy off people who are starving. And that's how their people were lulled into uranium mining, and it's being replayed here with the Skull Valley Goshutes. It's not right to buy off people who are starving.

9 And I just wanted to conclude my comments with the follow-up that other people have said it. In Lincoln, Nebraska, the hearing in Lincoln, Nebraska is set for the 24th of January. The announcement of the hearing was on January 5th. So that gave the people of Lincoln, Nebraska 19 days advance notice of their hearing. And I didn't bring the DEIS up here with me, but it's about this thick. So it's giving people 19 days to read that document.

And I'm not sure what kind of advertising is going to be done there, but we're contacting our contacts out there. I would request that this public comment period be extended to give these last three cities, Chicago and Lincoln and Cleveland, adequate time to submit their comments, because, as you can see, the DEIS was handed out today, and that's appropriate, but for people to pick up the DEIS at the hearing, it makes it -- it takes some time to get through that. The Chicago hearing is February 1st. The comment deadline at this point is the 8th of February. So the extension is needed.

10... And I just -- there are a couple of short points. Transmutation was offered as an alternative as a possibility of a future energy source. And there are people across the country who are opposed to the Yucca Mountain dump who are also equally opposed to the idea of transmuting nuclear waste, and see it as extending the life of nuclear power into the future and creating more nuclear waste in the future. The same with the idea of taking the weapons plutonium and using it as a fuel source. Not only that, but it's a risk of the proliferation of nuclear weapons technology. It's a short jump from transmutation and from the use of plutonium as a reactor fuel to diversion into a nuclear weapons program. India and Pakistan developed their nuclear weapons program with their Atoms for Peace programs. That's where their plutonium and other fissionable material came from. To use plutonium as a fuel source will get it going all over the world. There will be a circulation of plutonium happening. These are deadly wastes that need to be isolated from

10 cont. the environment. We need to stop generating them. That's the bottom line. That's the solution to this problem is stop making them.

11 And about the health impact of radioactivity, there were people who spoke about the current understanding being an exaggeration, an overestimation of how much health damage is done. There's a growing body of scientific literature that's finding that low-level radioactivity has a disproportionate impact upon human health. And so there's no certainty about radiation's impacts. Chernobyl is unfortunately a great laboratory to find out what radioactivity in chronic low doses does to human health. But it will be interesting to see how much data comes out of there and in what form and who controls the data and what their motivation is behind their reports.

So I thank you for this chance to speak to you.